Ohio State University Libraries
January 2006
ALA Midwinter Round Robin
ALCTS Technical Services Directors of Large Research Libraries Group

Renovation of Thompson (Main) Library

In preparation for the move of all materials out of the Main Library to "swing space" in the summer of 2006, the Special Collections Cataloging Dept. made extraordinary progress in creating collection-level records for manuscript collections and in adding full bibliographic records for serials not yet converted. The Cataloging Dept. and the Scholarly Resources Integration Dept. also processed many materials associated with the move, including a large number being transferred permanently to the Book Depository. Unfortunately, the Depository will soon be full, and no funds are available to begin construction of another module. OSU and other Ohio sites that have depositories are discussing this problem.

Recognition for Original Cataloging

In 2005, the extra efforts of Cataloging personnel to create original OCLC records for many older OSU theses and dissertations and for items requiring retrospective conversion before being transferred to the Book Depository contributed to OSU being named (for the second year in a row) as one of the top ten contributors of original records in OCLC's 2004/2005 annual report, with 18,648 records having been contributed.

Web-Based Acquisition/Serials Module Implementation

Considerable time was spent this past fall converting acquisition and serial workflows to use the INNOPAC Web-based modules for those functions. Due to a restructuring of the acquisitions module in the next INNOPAC release, the character-based acquisition and financial functions will no longer be available. As a result, collection managers who create orders in the system and Technical Services staff required retraining in the use of the Web-based system (called Millennium). Most functions have moved to Millennium, but several key issues with acquisition system functionality still must be resolved before the implementation can be declared completed.

Support for New Library Services

Textbook project: Members of two Technical Services departments supported implementation of a new textbook project in a very short turnaround by ordering, receiving, and cataloging a group of titles to be placed on reserve in the Science and Engineering Library in January. The project is intended to offer students an alternative to purchasing textbooks that they might not be able to afford.

Leisure reading collection: The head of the Monographs Dept. worked with the Outreach Coordinator to establish a McNaughton leased popular fiction plan with Brodart. Implementation will proceed as soon as the agreement is finalized.

E-books: Several options for providing e-books are being investigated for a pilot project.

Other Acquisition Activities

Virtual approvals: The Harrassowitz approval plan was reprofiled and converted to a virtual approval plan.

GOBI Export implementation: GOBI Export was implemented at the end of the year following several months of testing and coordination with vendors. This procedure replaces one-by-one downloading of OCLC Connexion bibliographic records for titles selected by collection managers in GOBI. Short vendor bibliographic records are loaded into the local catalog, then overlaid with PromptCAT full MARC records prior to receipt of the items. Electronic invoices also are created.

Electronic Resources Management

We continued to expand the use of our INNOPAC ERM module. In July, our Electronic Resources Librarian began a project to update/input renewal dates in all Resource records to begin a new license and payment tracking process. She also drafted a policy covering cancelled/changed/migrated/merged resources and how they might be handled in ERM as opposed to the catalog.

"Future of Information Access"

As a follow up to two library-wide discussions of current trends affecting academic libraries that were held in August, the Technical Services department heads planned an open presentation in the fall on the future of information access. Specific examples of metadata and workflow issues were given to help library personnel understand how new access options such as OSU's institutional repository relate to the library catalog and the types of questions that are coming up on a daily basis.

New Responsibilities and Opportunities for Technical Services

Due to her considerable knowledge of copyright and licensing issues, Trisha Davis, head of the Serials and Electronic Resources Dept., was asked to co-chair a newly formed OSU Copyright Committee composed of representatives from several University departments including Technology Licensing and Legal Affairs. She also served as a presenter (on the management of copyright permissions for course packs) and as a member of the Planning Committee for the 2005 Big Ten Printing and Copyright Conference, which was held at OSU in October. The Serials and Electronic Resources Dept. will assist in obtaining copyright permissions for materials to be submitted to OSU's institutional repository. Taking on this new responsibility is possible due to a

40% decline in serial check-in volume over the last five years as a result of several major serial cancellation projects.

Following a reorganization in July to align Technical Services accounting operations more closely with library Administrative Services, the department that had included those responsibilities was renamed the Scholarly Resources Integration Department (SRI). The new name acknowledges the department's focus on several new digital initiatives in addition to continuing responsibility for cataloging serials and electronic resources and for providing documentation and training for the Technical Services Division. Members of the department became more involved with supporting the OSU Knowledge Bank and a new campus expertise system (called OSU:Pro) that is being developed. As a pilot, the department head has taken responsibility for coordinating entry of library faculty vitas into the system, and she has been worked with the system developers on metadata mapping and display issues. A rapid campus deployment of the system is desired, and the SRI Dept. expects to play a significant role in initial data entry and training.

Chinese Exchange Program

OSU initiated an exchange agreement with Shanghai Library, and Trisha Davis was the first participant. She spent 31 days in China (in Aug/Sept) where she met with many different staff members, assisted the Library Director with special projects, held weekly seminars for those librarians who spoke English, and gave a formal lecture attended by many librarians from Shanghai. She also visited the National Library in Beijing, attended the China Book Fair, and lectured at Wuhan University. When OSU subsequently hosted two Shanghai Library exchange librarians in November, Trisha was very involved with coordinating their experience.

Personnel

Following the retirement of one of the Cataloging Dept. coordinators and in anticipation of future personnel needs in Technical Services, we decided to recruit for multiple positions using a single search process. This is the second time that this approach has been used at OSU (we recently completed a similar search process that resulted in hiring two systems librarians). Currently we are interviewing for up to three positions – a coordinator (supervisory position), a cataloger and a catalog/metadata librarian. We have been very pleased with the pool of applicants.

The head of the Cataloging Dept. continued to be very successful in recruiting library school practicum students to assist with projects in her department.